

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 TRSE-00 /091 W  
-----160718Z 095187 /13

R 151745Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4030  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6237

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, FR, CG  
SUBJECT: ZAIRE, FRANCE, AND THE ITALIAN REACTION

REF: PARIS 10771

1. SUMMARY: GOI WAS NEITHER CONSULTED NOR FOREWARNED  
BEFORE THE FRENCH ACTION ON BEHALF OF ZAIRE, AND IS  
TAKING MINIMUM PAINS TO MAKE THAT FACT, AND ITS IRRITATION,  
CLAR. END SUMMARY. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

2. FOLLOWING'S GISCARD'S APRIL 12 TELEVISION PRESS CONFERENCE,  
THE GOI WASTED NO TIME LETTING IT BE KNOWN THAT, AT LEAST  
AS FAR AS ITALY IS CONCERNED, THERE WAS NO BILATERAL  
CONSULTATION OR WARNING PRIOR TO GISCARD'S ANNOUNCEMENT.  
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NOR, ACCORDING TO UNNAMED ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY  
SPOKESMAN QUOTED IN THE ITALIAN PRESS ON APRIL 13,  
WAS THERE CONSULTATION THROUGH THE EC. IN THE CIRCUM-  
STANCES, ITALY TAKES A DIM VIEW OF GISCARD'S , AND  
FRANCE'S, PRETENSION TO BE THE CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH  
EUROPE HAS "MANIFESTED ITSELF".

3. REINFORCING THIS INFORMAL DISCLAIMER, FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI IS QUOTED IN TODAY'S ITALIAN WIRE SERVICE AS HAVING TOLD THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS THIS MORNING THAT "FROM A PHRASE (OF GISCARD'S ANNOUNCEMENT) IT HAD BEEN ERRONEOUSLY INFERRED, AT LEAST AS REGARDS ITALY, THAT THE EUROPEAN PARTNERS HAD BEEN INFORMED BEFORE-HAND OF THE INTERVENTION". THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTER'S REPEATS THAT "AS REGARDS THE INITIATIVE TAKEN IN THIS MATTER BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, IT HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR THAT THERE WAS NOT CONSULTATION WITH THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT" AND THAT THE SUBJECT WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE DC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AT THEIR MEETING IN LONDON ON APRIL 18. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. AUTHORITATIVE FOREIGN MINISTRY SURCE AFFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT ONLY WORD ITALY HAD RECEIVED FROM FRANCE HAD BEEN A COMMUNICATION ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 12, WELL AFTER THE DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN, IN A FORM INDICATING THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN TAILORED FOR THE NINE BUT FOR THE CONSUMPTION OF A GREAT MANY GOVERNMENTS. THERE HAD BEEN NO QUESTION OF CONSULTATION EITHER BILATERALLY OR THROUGH THE NINE'S ESTABLISHED POLITICAL MECHANISM. THIS FAILURE TO CONSULT WAS IN ITSELF A MISTAKE, BUT HAD BEEN COMPOUNDED BY GISCARD'S CLAIM TO THE CONTRARY, WHICH PUT OTHER GOVERNMENTS ON THE SPOT, MADE THEM SEEM LIKE ACCESSORIES BEFORE THE FACT, AND FORCED THEM TO PUBLIC DENIALS.

5. AT A MORE SIGNIFICANT LEVEL, HOWEVER, THE GOI FEELS  
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THAT INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE CONFLICT IN SHABA IS A MISTAKE, AND THAT FRANCE'S ACTION AND CLAIM TO SPEAK FOR EUROPE TEND TO PULL EUROPE INTO THE PROBLEM WITHOUT ITS PRIOR ASSENT.

6. COMMENT: IF OTHER EC NINE GOVERNMENTS ARE AS IRATE ON PROTOCOLAIRE AND SUBSTANTIVE GROUNDS AS ITALY SEEMS TO BE TODAY, THE FRENCH MAY FIND THE CLIMATE IN LONDON EXCEEDING WARM.GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, INVASIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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